

The United States remains the world's most dominant economy and scientific powerhouse. The rest of the world, however, is catching up and challenging our competitiveness. Fundamentally, there has been a significant increase in the quality and quantity of science and engineering (S&E) capacity around the globe. At the same time, America has grown complacent in her position as innovation leaders. Without adequate support at home, the impact of these two factors has been not only a decline in science and engineering professionals, but also the movement of corporate high tech investments and jobs to other countries.

The Republican Congress has made great strides in funding research and development. We have met and exceed our goal of doubling the National Institutes of Health (NIH) medical research funding, we have made necessary reforms to streamline the Patent and Trademark Office and FDA processes, and we have promoted nanotechnology, broadband dissemination, and a myriad of other important high tech investment. Similarly President Bush has focused on evaluating the scale, quality, and effectiveness of the Federal effort in science and technology.

Research and development investments are still the keys to our nation's future competitiveness, and thus we must increase our efforts to spur innovation. This week, as part of the ongoing 8 week kickoff to the Careers for a 21st Century America competitiveness agenda, the House is focusing on efforts to spur the innovative, creative and entrepreneurial spirit that has always driven America toward phenomenal achievement.

Democrats constantly lament our declining dominance in the sciences, yet offer no solutions. "You need a partnership," says NSF Deputy Director, Josh Bordogna. "You need new knowledge out of universities and labs, new processes from industry, and a government willing to enable it all through appropriate R&D policy and frontier research and education investment, by and for the citizenry." That is the challenge House Republicans have taken to heart.

Instead of political rhetoric, Republicans are offering real solutions. We invite our colleagues to join us in moving America forward.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BLUMENAUER (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today after 5:00 p.m. and the balance of the week on account of personal reasons.

Mr. CARDIN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for July 6 and today on account of official business.

Mr. LAHOOD (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today after 2:00 p.m. and the balance of the week on account of official business.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. McDERMOTT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LIPINSKI, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. McDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PEARCE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. PEARCE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PENCE, for 5 minutes, July 8.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, July 12.

Mr. GINGREY, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 59 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, July 8, 2004, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

8908. A letter from the Acting Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the Department of the Army, Case Number 04-04, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b); to the Committee on Appropriations.

8909. A letter from the Acting Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the Department of the Navy, Case Number 02-06, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b); to the Committee on Appropriations.

8910. A letter from the Acting Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the Department of the Army, Case Number 04-03, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b); to the Committee on Appropriations.

8911. A letter from the Secretary of the Air Force, Department of Defense, transmitting notification that the Space Based Infrared System (SBIRS) High System Program exceeds the 15 percent PAUC threshold, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2433(e)(1); to the Committee on Armed Services.

8912. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting a report concerning plutonium storage at the Savannah River Site, located near Aiken, South Carolina, pursuant to Public Law 107-314, section 3183; to the Committee on Armed Services.

8913. A letter from the Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the fourteenth annual report on the Profitability of Credit Card Operations of Depository Institutions, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1637 note, Public Law 100-583, section 8 (102 Stat. 2969); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8914. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel (Banking and Finance), Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Terrorism Risk Insurance Program; Claims Procedures (RIN: 1505-AB07) received June 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8915. A letter from the Fiscal Assistant Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting notification of a significant

modification to the auction process for issuing United States Treasury obligations, pursuant to Public Law 103-202, section 203 (107 Stat. 2359); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8916. A letter from the Fiscal Assistant Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the annual report to Congress on material violations or suspected material violations of regulations relating to Treasury auctions and other offerings of securities by Treasury, pursuant to Public Law 103-202, section 202 (107 Stat. 2344, 2358-2359); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8917. A letter from the Fiscal Assistant Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report stating that during the period of January 1, 2003, through December 31, 2003, no exceptions to the prohibition against favored treatment of a government securities broker or dealer were granted by the Secretary of the Treasury, pursuant to Public Law 103-202, section 202 (107 Stat. 2344, 2357); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8918. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Extension of Minimum Funding Under the Indian Housing Block Grant Program [Docket No. FRL-4825-1-02] (RIN: 2577-AC43) received June 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8919. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting a report on transactions involving U.S. exports to Australia pursuant to Section 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended; to the Committee on Financial Services.

8920. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Commission Guidance Regarding the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board's Auditing and Related Professional Practice Standard No. 1 [Release Nos. 33-8422; 34-49708; FRL-73] received June 16, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8921. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Disclosure Regarding Approval of Investment Advisory Contracts by Directors of Investment Companies [Release Nos. 33-8433; 34-49909; IC-26486; FILE No. S7-08-04] (RIN: 3235-AJ10) received June 25, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8922. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Collection Practices under Section 31 of the Exchange Act [Release No. 34-49928; File No. S7-05-04] (RIN: 3235-AJ02) received June 29, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8923. A letter from the Acting Chief Financial Officer, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a copy of the Department's Fleet Alternative Fuel Vehicle Acquisition Report for Fiscal Year 2003, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 13211-13219; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8924. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Redesignation of the Warren County So2 Non-attainment and Approval of the Maintenance